



Labor and Workforce Development

Home > Mass Loses 200 Jobs in July, Unemployment Rate 4.3%

CHARLIE BAKER
GOVERNOR

For Immediate Release - August 17, 2017

KARYN POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Massachusetts Loses 200 Jobs in July, Unemployment Rate at 4.3 Percent

Media Contact

Charles Pearce (617) 626-7121

Charles.Pearce@massmail.state.ma.us

Follow us on Twitter [@MassLWD](https://twitter.com/MassLWD)

BOSTON, MA – The state's total unemployment rate remained at 4.3 percent in July, the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development announced Thursday.

The preliminary job estimates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate Massachusetts lost 200 jobs in July. Over the month, the private sector added 1,500 jobs as gains occurred in Construction; Financial Activities; Education and Health Services; and Manufacturing. The June estimate was revised to a gain of 10,900 jobs.

From July 2016 to July 2017, BLS estimates Massachusetts has added 45,200 jobs.

The July state unemployment rate is the same as the national rate of 4.3 percent reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The last time this occurred was April 2008 when the unemployment rate was 5.0 percent.

"Although the unemployment rate remains low, we continue to see persistent gaps between the skill sets of available workers and the qualifications needed for in-demand jobs. Our workforce development agencies remain committed to closing that skills gap and helping the chronically unemployed receive the training they need to access a successful career in Massachusetts," Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Rosalin Acosta said.

The labor force decreased by 11,300 from 3,708,800 in June, as 11,500 fewer residents were employed and 300 more residents were unemployed over the month.

Over the year, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased seven-tenths of a percentage point from 3.6 percent in July 2016. There were 33,000 more unemployed persons over the year compared to July 2016.

The state's labor force participation rate – the total number of residents 16 or older who worked or were unemployed and actively sought work in the last four weeks – decreased three-tenths of a percentage point to 66.4 percent over the month. The labor force participation rate over the year has increased 1.5 percent compared to July 2016.

The largest private sector percentage job gains over the year were in Education and Health Services; Construction; Financial Activities; and Professional, Scientific and Business Services.

July 2017 Employment Overview

Construction gained 2,500 (+1.7%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Construction has added 3,900 (+2.7%) jobs.

Financial Activities added 1,300 (+0.6%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Financial Activities gained 5,600 (+2.5%) jobs.

Education and Health Services added 1,300 (+0.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Education and Health Services gained 21,900 (+2.8%) jobs.

Manufacturing gained 500 (+0.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Manufacturing lost 1,500 (-0.6%) jobs.

Other Services lost 1,400 (-1.0%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Other Services are up 2,000 (+1.5%) jobs.

Trade, Transportation and Utilities lost 1,400 (-0.2%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Trade, Transportation and Utilities gained 1,000 (+0.2%) jobs.

Leisure and Hospitality lost 900 jobs (-0.2%) over the month. Over the year, Leisure and Hospitality lost 900 (-0.2%) jobs.

Information lost 300 (-0.3%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Information gained 1,300 (+1.5%) jobs.

Professional, Scientific and Business Services lost 100 (0.0%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Professional, Scientific and Business Services added 9,500 (+1.7%) jobs.

Government lost 1,700 (-0.4%) jobs over the month. Over the year, Government gained 2,300 (+0.5%) jobs.


Labor Force Overview

The July estimates show 3,536,900 Massachusetts residents were employed and 160,700 were unemployed, for a total labor force of 3,697,500. The unemployment rate remained at 4.3 percent over the month. The July labor force decreased by 11,300 from 3,708,800 in June, as 11,500 fewer residents were employed and 300 more residents were unemployed over the month. The labor force participation rate, the share of working age population employed and unemployed, was 66.4 percent. The labor force was up 110,700 from the 3,586,900 July 2016 estimate, with 77,700 more residents employed and 33,000 more residents unemployed.

The unemployment rate is based on a monthly sample of households. The job estimates are derived from a monthly sample survey of employers. As a result, the two statistics may exhibit different monthly trends.

NOTES:

The labor force is the sum of the numbers of employed residents and those unemployed, that is residents not working but actively seeking work in the last four weeks. Estimates may not add up to the total labor force due to rounding.

Local area unemployment statistics for July 2017 will be released on Tuesday, August 22, 2017. The preliminary August 2017 and revised July 2017 unemployment rate, labor force and job estimates for Massachusetts will be released on Thursday, September 14, 2017. See the [2017 Revised Media Advisory annual schedule](#)  for a complete list of release dates.

Detailed labor market information is available at www.mass.gov/lmi.

#####